

Annual Report on Children's Faith Formation – 2023

By Liz Ryan, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Back to in-person Sunday School, we were happy to be together in the Guild Room each Sunday from 9:45 am to 10:40 am and then head into church to worship with our families. Our numbers varied, growing as people felt more comfortable with bringing their families to church as the threat of Covid-19 waned.

Our annual Easter Egg hunt was well attended with over 750 eggs being “hidden” and found by the children of the parish and community.

We held VBS in Entitled “Mission: Deep Sea”, this great program rolled STEM and theology together for children ages 3 through 10. With all the volunteers assuming the character of Sea Exploration Agents (SEA), our snorkel-wearing helpers taught the attending children to wonder and discover through scripture, music and experiments! Lead by Liz Ryan and a team of 35 dedicated volunteers, the children enjoyed every minute of robots, science and Bible stories (enacted by our intrepid repertoire group) in a background of a deep sea submarine painted by Sharon Kurlychek!



For the new program year, in August we chose to use the Seedlings Curriculum again, combining Bible stories, history and Episcopal tradition.

Our rotating groups of teachers in the 2023 year included: Ann Caldwell, Irene Kane and Janet Thompson, John Putnam, Stephen Linebaugh, along with Liz Ryan, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator. Always ready to share their talents and gifts, regardless of how many children showed up on any given week.

The end of the year brought big changes as Fr. Paul and Fr. Bernie convened a committee to create a combination Worship and Formation Eucharist for families of young children. This endeavor took several months of work and yielded an exciting new service called “Family Prayers and Praise” that

will take the place of the Sunday School class and allow children to be a part of the Bible story skits and liturgy in an engaging way! A safe and joyful place for the wigglers, this is a brand new way of worship!

We enjoyed the Blessing of the Trick or Treaters on Halloween and were able to re-start the tradition of “Trunk or Treat” in the parking lot after the 10 am service! Trick or Treaters in costumes as well as the adults who accompanied them got their sweet-tooth satisfied!

Christmas brought a return to our traditional Christmas Pageant during the Christmas Eve family service. The Broderick Family (a Day School family) stepped up to be our Holy Family with 9 mos. old Jack in the role of Jesus! Angels and shepherds, kings and a Star of Bethlehem gave us a visual image to go along with the scripture read beautifully by Matthew and Emma Hinds.

It has been a year of Wonder and Light in the midst of the shadows of this pandemic and we have been grateful for the Light! We are so blessed!

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Ryan, Children’s Faith Formation Coordinator

